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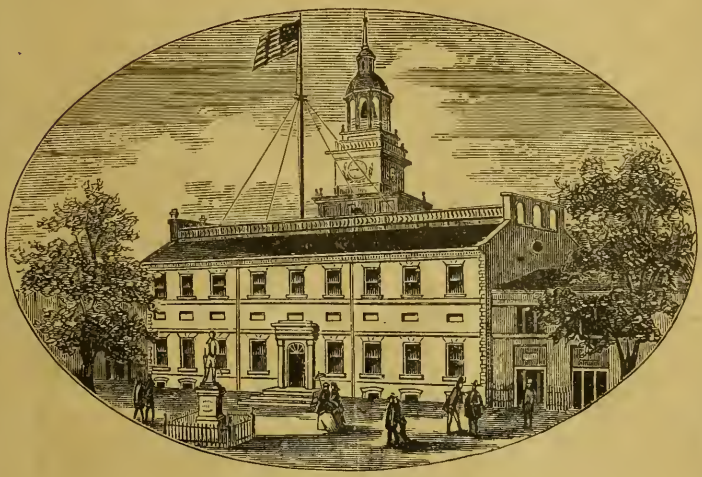
THE BELL

—OF—

INDEPENDENCE.



THE

CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

TO THE

CITY OF NEW ORLEANS:

GREETING.

PHILADELPHIA.
DUNLAP & CLARKE, PRINTERS, HASTINGS' BUILDING, 819 & 821 FILBERT ST.
1885.

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JUN 29 1886
1806

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DUNLAP & CLARKE, PRINTERS, HASTINGS' BUILDING, 819 & 821 FILBERT ST.
1885.

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THE OFFICIAL ESCORT

OF THE

BELL OF INDEPENDENCE.

Hon. WILLIAM B. SMITH,

Mayor of the City of Philadelphia.

THE COMMITTEE OF COUNCILS:

SELECT COUNCIL.	COMMON COUNCIL.
Thomas M. Hammett Esq.,	Andrew Zane Jr., Esq.,
Thomas J. Rose, Esq.,	Joshua T. Owen, Esq.,
William Thornton, Esq.,	Charles K. Smith, Esq.,
Edward W. Patton, Esq.,	John M. Walton, Esq.,
Edward Matthews, Esq.,	James McCormick, Esq.,
John Brady, Esq.,	John T. Clark, Esq.,
William McMullen, Esq.,	Robert L. Pyle, Esq., Chairman.
Geo. W. Kochersperger, Esq., Clerk.	

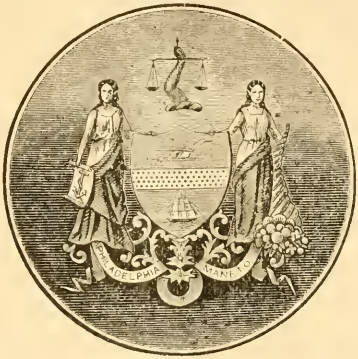
WILLIAM DIXEY, Esq.,

Commissioner of Markets and City Property, Ex-officio Custodian of State House and Bell.

Sergeant EDWARD MALIN,
Officer THOS. H. NEWMAN,
" JOHN PATTON,

Of the Reserve Corps, Municipal Police of Philadelphia, Guards of the Bell.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS COPYRIGHT JUN 29 1886



ORDINANCE AND RESOLUTION

OF THE

COUNCILS

OF THE

City of Philadelphia and the City of New Orleans.

On the fourth day of December, 1884, the following letter of request by the Mayor of New Orleans, accompanied by the Ordinance of that Municipality, was submitted by the Mayor to the Councils of the Municipality of Philadelphia:

Philadelphia, December 4, 1884.

To the Presidents and Members of the Select and
Common Councils of the City of Philadelphia.

GENTLEMEN:—I have the honor to transmit a letter from the Hon. J. V. Guillotte, Mayor of New Orleans, La., urging upon the City of Philadelphia the adoption of the accompanying Resolutions, formally adopted by the Councils of the City of New Orleans.

Acknowledgement of the receipt of the same has been communicated to his Honor, the Mayor, pending your consideration.

The feeling of the people of Louisiana and the entire South is so well portrayed in these petitions, that it only remains for your Honorable Bodies to meet them in the same patriotic spirit to ensure the solution of a question which will enable the City of Brotherly Love to display that spirit of fraternal feeling and good will which have reflected honor upon her name for more than a century.

Very respectfully,

WILLIAM B. SMITH,
Mayor.

New Orleans, November 22, 1884.

To the Mayor of Philadelphia.

HONORED SIR:—In accordance with An Ordinance of our Council, a copy of which herewith enclosed, I desire to urge upon you and your people the exertion of your best efforts to obtain for us the loan of the Independence Bell, to be used on the opening of our World's Exposition. I am sure that its care and safety will be the anxious thought of all our citizens, who, notwithstanding all the reports as to their seditious feelings against the unity of our Government, are, without fear of contradiction, as affectionate to the traditions of our country, the real Republic of the World, and are as true believers in its laws and constitution—in fact, as patriotic Americans as their more favored brothers of the North.

Your consent to the temporary absence of this reminder of our forefathers' valor, to be used in heralding the greatest occasion of our city, will tend greatly to heal the unfortunate estrangement that has existed between our people for the past twenty years.

Hoping that your well known public spiritedness and generous heart will cause you to cast all rancor for the South out of your bosom, and that our request be granted,

I remain, very respectfully,

J. V. GUILLOTTE,
Mayor.

New Orleans, November 19, 1884.

(No. 1003, Council Series.)

AN ORDINANCE

WHEREAS, The World's Industrial and Cotton Centennial Exposition will open in this city on the sixteenth day of December next, and will be inaugurated by the Chief Magistrate of the United States, in the presence of representatives from every State and Territory in the Union, and

WHEREAS, It is much to be desired that in the celebration of that day, as announcing the new birth and progress of all the industries of our common country, that we should look back to the day on which American Independence was proclaimed to the world, and have amongst us a visible reminder of the days of our forefathers.

Therefore, be it resolved by the Council of the City of New Orleans, That they request the Mayor and Council of the City of Philadelphia, to entrust to our keeping for that occasion, the Old Independence Bell.

Resolved, That the City of New Orleans will take becoming pride in its responsibility for the custody and safe return, and will be grateful to the people of a sister City, and sister State, for the opportunity which will thus be offered its children to see that symbol of our independence, whose tones inspired courage in the hearts of the patriots of '76.

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the proper authorities, to grant this request, with a letter from his Honor the Mayor.

The Councils, on the twenty-third day of December, 1885, passed the following:

RESOLUTION

Of instruction to the Commissioner of Markets and City Property, relative to permitting the removal of the "Bell of Independence" from Independence Hall, under the supervision of the Joint Special Committee of Councils, and to provide for its safety.

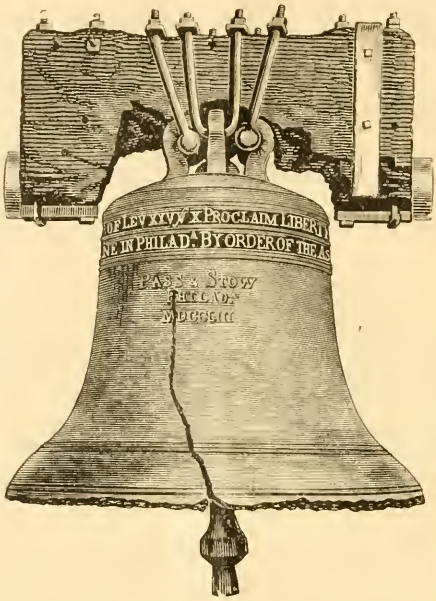
WHEREAS, His Honor, the Mayor, and Councils of the City of New Orleans, have requested these Councils to allow the "Bell of Independence" to be taken to New Orleans, to be exhibited at the World's Exposition now open in that city; and

WHEREAS, His Honor, the Mayor of Philadelphia, has personally recommended that the request be granted; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by the Select and Common Councils of the City of Philadelphia, That the Commissioner of Markets and City Property be, and he is, hereby authorized and directed to remove the "Bell of Independence" from the rotunda of Independence Hall, and to place the same in cars for shipment to the New Orleans Exposition, under the supervision of the Joint Committee of Councils, and under the custodians hereafter provided for.

Resolved, That the bell, from the time of its shipment from Philadelphia and until its return after the Exposition, shall be under the personal care of three custodians, police officers of the City of Philadelphia, to be appointed by the Mayor of Philadelphia.

"And Proclaim Liberty throughout all the Land, unto all the Inhabitants thereof: it shall be a jubilee unto you."



"Among the bells of the world no one has recorded an event of as great interest to humanity as the bell of Independence. Its prophetic inscription; its tolling, on that memorable day, the advance of our States from colonial dependencies to sovereignties; the mission for unity, liberty, and fraternity it yet symbolizes, gives its story an abiding interest generation after generation.'

A bell was in the possession of the Assembly of the Province of Pennsylvania for official purposes from its organization. Its most customary use was to call the Assembly together, mornings and afternoons, during its sessions, and to announce the hour of the opening of the courts of justice to the people. Its most stately use was to announce the proclamations of the accession of a member of the Royal Family to the Throne,* and the proclamations of treaties of peace and declarations of war.

* The following is the notice of a proclamation, in which a Province bell was rung, in 1685:

Pennsilvania.

By the President and Council.

These are to give general notice that our present sovereign King James the Second, will be published, in the Front Street upon Delaware River, over against the Governor's gate to-morrow morning at the ninth hour upon "the wringing of the Bell."

Philadelphia the 11th, 3d month 1685.

Signed by Order
RICHARD INGELO, *cl. councilii.*

The bell which, following this custom, announced the Declaration of Independence, was ordered by the Superintendents of the State House* from the Agent of the Province in London, in 1751. It was required to weigh about two thousand pounds, and to be lettered with the following words, "well-shaped in large letters":

"By order of the Assembly of the Province of Pennsylvania, for the State House in the City of Philadelphia, 1752;" and underneath, "Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof."

The Bell arrived at the end of August, 1752. Early in September, however, it was cracked by a stroke of the clapper, without any other violence, and thereupon recast by Pass & Stow, in Philadelphia, and again hung, in 1753. This recasting was not satisfactory, and the founders obtained the privilege of recasting the Bell. In June, 1753, it was hung in the State House once more, and, with the exception of the period from 1777 until after the evacuation of the city by the British forces,† has hung there continuously to this year—1885.

Its diameter is five feet, at the lip, and, in the thickest portion, it is three inches through; its weight is 2,080 pounds. It is lettered, in a line entirely encircling the crown, with the sentence

PROCLAIM LIBERTY THROUGHOUT ALL THE LAND UNTO ALL THE INHABITANTS THEREOF, LEV. XXV, V. X.

Immediately under this sentence, also in a line completely encircling the bell,

* The State House was designed by, and erected, under the immediate care of Andrew Hamilton, the greatest lawyer of his time in the Colonies, and "among the great lawyers of any age;" it was first occupied by the Assembly in 1736. Its cost was defrayed out of the first issue of the paper money of the Province.

† September, 1777. The city being about to be occupied by the British army, the bell was carried to Allentown, a long distance from the city in those days, and there or elsewhere securely kept until after the evacuation. The escort by which the removal was made was a body of Virginia and North Carolina troops, commanded by Col. Polk, of North Carolina (Beth Souv., p. 181).

By Order of the ASSEMBLY of the Province of PENNSYLVANIA for the STATE House in Philada.

Pass and Stow
Philada.
MDCCLIII.

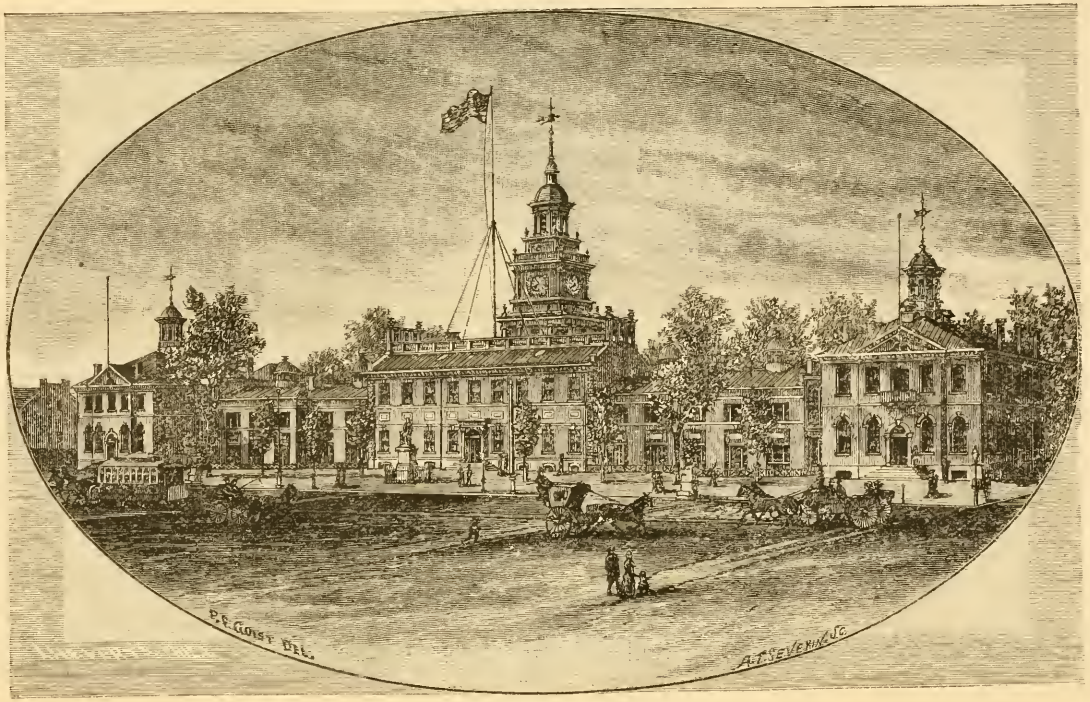
The Chronicles of the Bell.

27th of August, 1753 (afternoon), the Bell was first rung to call the Assembly together;* it was during the session in which it was resolved to make and continue the issue of the Province money, notwithstanding the order of the Lords Justices of the Crown: and in which the Assembly claimed the right, under the charter of the Province, to ordain, make and enact any laws whatsoever for raising money for the public use, or for any other end, pertaining to the public, state, peace, or safety, with the assent and approbation of the freemen of the country."

September 7, 1753. During the same session, the Assembly unanimously rejected a clause, directed by the Governor to be inserted in the bill, requiring the royal approbation to give it validity, so that the first use of the Bell was to chronicle the initial forward movement of the province to the completed revolution it was at last to proclaim.

May 18, 1754. It was rung to convene the Assembly, when considering the instructions of the Governor to the Commissioners, on the part of the province, for the treaty at Albany; it said: "we can do no less than return him our great acknowledgments for his condescension and justice."

* *Resolved*, That every member who should be absent from the House above half an hour after the bell ceases to ring in the fore and afternoon, should be fined one shilling, and that Mr. Pearnee be hereby appointed to collect fine, for use of the Pennsylvania Hospital.—Votes of Assembly, vol. 3, p. 138.



Independence Hall in 1885

Independence Hall in 1776.

July 5, 1776, copies of the Declaration were sent by the Congress to all the counties of the Province, and to the several Assemblies, Conventions, and Councils of Safety, to the commanding officers of the Continental troops and at the head of the army.*

The Committee of Safety ordered: That the Sheriff of Philadelphia read, or cause to be read and proclaimed, at the State House, in the City of Philadelphia, on Monday, the 8th day of July, instant, at 12 o'clock, at noon of the same day, the Declaration of the Representatives of the United Colonies of America, and that he cause all his officers and constables of the said city to attend the reading thereof.

The Committee of Safety resolved that every member in or near the city be ordered to meet at the Committee Chamber before 12 o'clock on Monday, to proceed to the State House, when the Declaration of Independence is to be proclaimed. The Committee of Inspection of the City and Liberties were requested to attend the Proclamation of Independence, at the State House, on Monday next, at 12 o'clock.

*Jour. of Cong., vol. ii. p. 247.

The Proclamation.

July 8, 1776, near the hour of twelve, the bell was rung for the proclamation of the Declaration. The place selected for the reading was a treeless open space near the rear of the central entrance to the building. The Square, a level ground, broke off abruptly on its south side like an earthwork. The State-House ran along its whole north line—a low, irregular wall of buildings in those years, with a square, bastion-like tower in the centre, and spire in which the bell that day hung, and beat against the still, hot air of all revolutions.

The order of the city and Province processions in those days* was first, the Constables, with their staffs: the Sheriff and the Coroner, with their white wands to usher the way; if the Mayor and Recorder of the city were there, they had the next place in the order of precedency, then any military men "with their levee," after them the members of Congress and other dignitaries of the United Colonies.

After the chief dignitaries in these processions should ordinarily have followed, according to the rigid formality of the times,—"the town's gentlemen." The rest were serious titleless citizens—the same undermost, resolute outgrowth of every age, which appears in the first stages of revolutions.

The Committee of Inspection moved from the Philosophical Hall, on Second street, at 11 o'clock, and thence to the Lodge, where they joined the Council of Safety, and together continued on to the Square.

The bell ceased tolling.

John Nixon, soldier and financier—a strong-voiced, open-featured man, who was true until the struggle's and his life's end, read the paper which preserves our liberties. The platform on which he stood that forever memorable day, was a rough frame stage; around

* Pa. Mag. of Hist., No. 1, vol. ii. p. 43.

him those resolved citizens and their representatives, who, in their children's children were to be the masters of a continent—the foremost nation of all time. He read the paper, thenceforth to be the common property and faith of that nation to its close; his voice, audible to every one, was heard a long distance from the Square.

"The audience then gave three repeated huzzas"—the bell again began tolling, and the chimes and all the bells of the city rang together.

Nine of the associators, with the same rude iconoclasm by which these changes are wrought in every age—the destruction of all held most sacred to the time, went into the building and took down the

King's arms from the walls of the King's Court, and, carrying them to the open common, piled casks one upon the other, placed the arms upon them, and set all on fire—with great demonstrations of joy.

"The night was starlight and beautiful."

July 8, 1835. The Bell's last Tolling. John Marshall died in Philadelphia on the sixth day of July, 1835; his remains were on the day of this anniversary borne to Virginia for burial. The Bar of Philadelphia united with their fellow citizens to do honor to his memory; with them walked, with the faltering steps of extreme old age—his eighty-eighth year, the venerable Bishop White,*

* Died 1836.

the first Chaplain to the Assembly of our State, and to the Congress of the Revolution. It was during his funeral solemnities that the bell, while slowly tolling, without other violence, parted through its great side, and was silent thenceforth forever.

So it was ordered by "the Great Disposer of human events," that he who was the Chief Justice of the nation, and its most illustrious judicial name, should die almost within the shadow of that Hall whence the people took down the king's arms from the king's court, that so justice might endure. And that this bell, its mission for our independence completed, should have its last association with his venerated name.

In the silence more profound they bore his body along our streets, and thence, still in the city's care, to the place of its sepulture, in that State which gave to the nation the author of the great Declaration this Bell first proclaimed to the world.

The Chronology of the Bell here ends. To the Assembly which ordered it to be made, the sentence of its mission, cast into its crown, meant the maintenance of the prerogatives of Legislatures chosen by the people, within the limits of the British Constitution; to the Congress whose declaration it announced to the world, it had the larger meaning of the entire independence of the colonies from the British crown. In the century which has succeeded, it has become the symbol of the common brotherhood of the States; and whatever we have gained or lost in the long years of our prosperity, and in the dark hour of our sorrow and desolation, most precious of all the treasures—of which the memories clinging around this bell are the conservators—the brotherhood of the States was not lost, and the unity of the nation survives.

Unity, Fraternity, Liberty.

Official Escort of the Bell

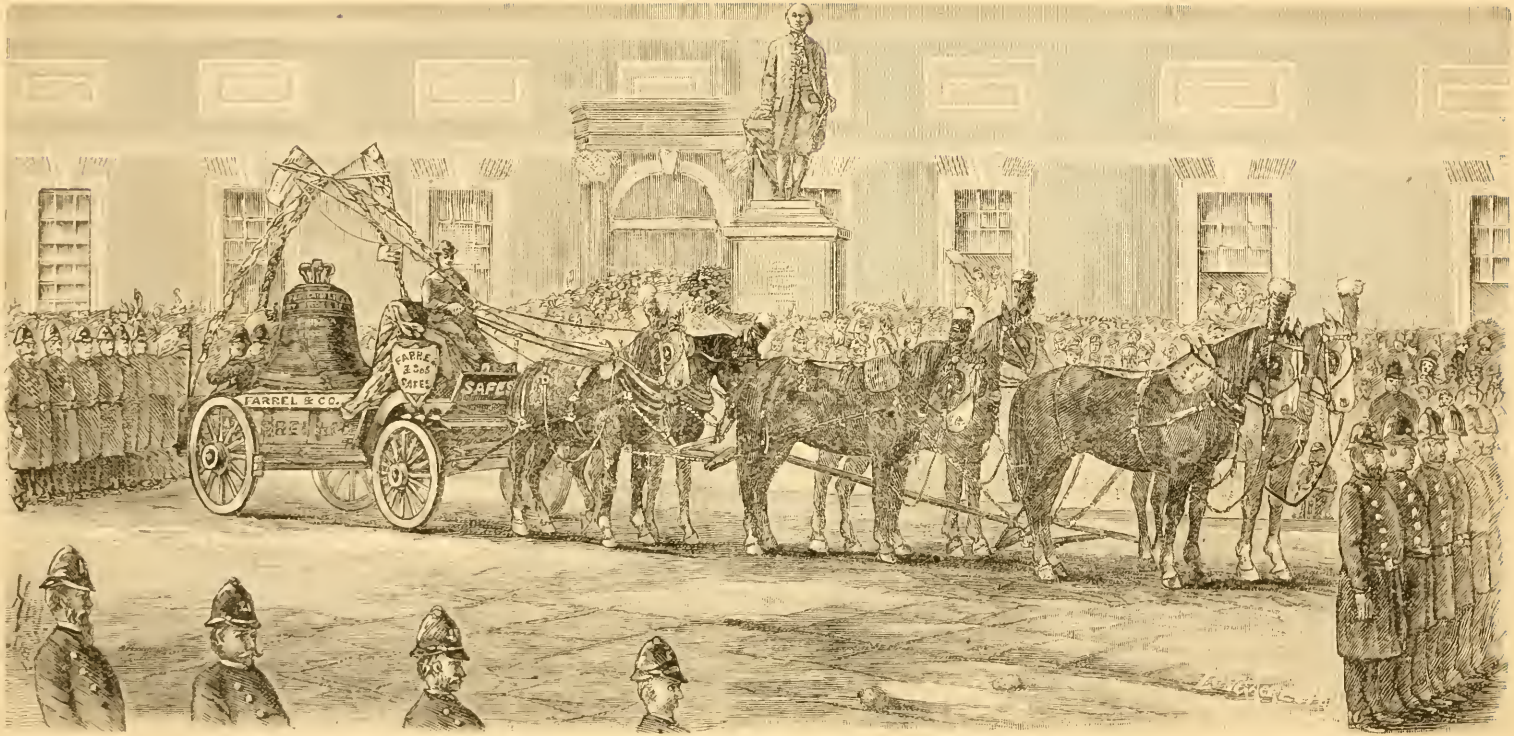
—FROM—

INDEPENDENCE HALL to SPECIAL TRAIN

—OF THE—

PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD.

The Bell was taken out of Independence Hall and placed on the truck at 7 o'clock, January 23d, 1885. At 7.30 A. M., the escort guarding the Bell to the special train of the Pennsylvania Railroad took up its line of march, in the following order: Head of column, four mounted men; Band of the First Battalion, James Stewart, Jr., Chief of Police, mounted, with two Orderlies; First Battalion of Police, Captain, Lieutenants and two hundred and thirty-two men; Police Patrol Wagon No. 1, eight men; Farrel's Truck, bearing the Bell, drawn by six bays, with driver, assistant and its three custodians *en route*, surrounded in hollow square by the Reserves, Lieutenant and thirty-two men. Band of Second Battalion, Second Battalion of Police, Captain, Lieutenants and two hundred and thirty-two men, Police Patrol Wagon No. 2, eight Men.



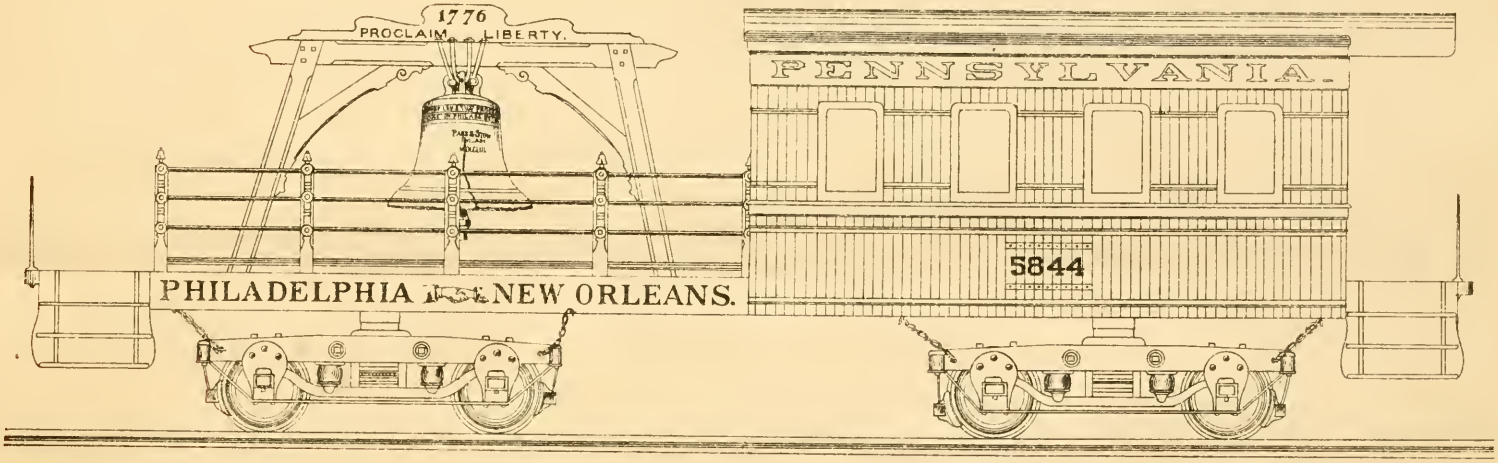
FARREL & CO.,

MANUFACTURERS OF

PATENT CHAMPION FIRE AND BURGLAR PROOF SAFES,

No. 631 CHESTNUT STREET, PHILADELPHIA, PA.,

Generously loaned the above Truck for the occasion of moving the "Old Liberty Bell" from Independence Hall to the Car of the Pennsylvania R. R. Co., en route for the New Orleans Exposition, January 23d, 1885.



CAR FURNISHED BY COURTESY OF THE PENNSYLVANIA RAIL ROAD COMPANY.

I. W. VAN HOUTEN,
Supt. of Shops.

W. I. LATTA,
General Manager.

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Philadelphia to New Orleans.

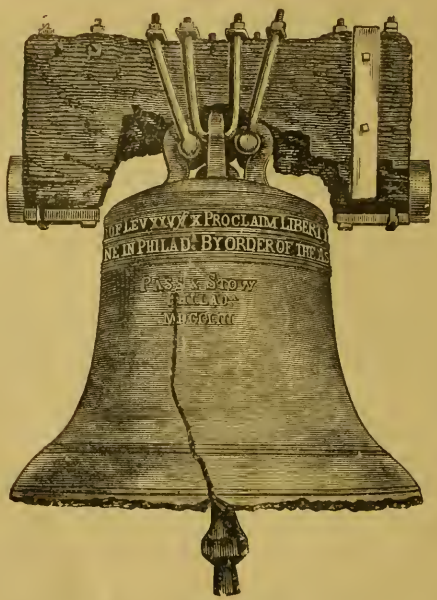
ROUTE AND SCHEDULE TIME OF THE SPECIAL TRAIN

WITH THE

OFFICIAL ESCORT

OF THE

BELL OF INDEPENDENCE.



Leave Philadelphia, Friday, January 23d,	. . .	10.00 A. M.
Arrive Lancaster, Pa., " " "	. . .	12.00 M.
" Harrisburg, Pa., " " "	. . .	1.20 P. M.
" Altoona, Pa.. " " "	. . .	5.00 P. M.
" Pittsburgh, Pa., " " "	. . .	9.50 P. M.
" Columbus, O., Saturday, January 24th,	. .	5.30 A. M.
" Cincinnati, O., " " "	. .	10.30 A. M.
" Louisville, Ky., " " "	. .	6.00 P. M.
" Nashville, Tenn., Sunday, January 25th,	. .	8.00 A. M.
" Birmingham, Ala., " " "	. .	3.00 P. M.
" Montgomery, Ala., " " "	. .	6.00 P. M.
" Mobile, Ala., Monday, January 26th,	. .	8.00 A. M.
" New Orleans, " " "	. .	12.00 M.